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MR. BARRETT: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I want to thank you for coming tonight. This is a public scoping meeting on the Programmatic Environmental Impact Study, or PEIS, for the Immigration & Naturalization Service, Joint Task Force Six missions, primarily along the southwestern border.

My name is Ralph Barrett, and I'll be presiding officer for tonight's meeting. Before any decision is made to implement any programs and accompanying strategies in these planning documents, INS and JTF-6 must do a complete analysis of it.

This type of broad analysis of plans is referred to as a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, or PEIS, rather than the more commonly known EIS, or Environmental Impact Statement, which analyzes a specific project proposed by the Government.

Part of the process involves receiving public input during this early phase of the PEIS. This is called scoping. At the scoping meetings, we ask for public input on the scope or range of issues that were not previously identified and should be considered for analysis

in this PEIS. Comments received during scoping will be considered in the development of the draft PEIS.

We have two goals tonight: To provide

05 information to you about the Immigration &  
06 Naturalization Service and Joint Task Force Six,  
07 and to receive your comments regarding the scope  
08 of the Supplemental Programmatic Environmental  
09 Impact Statement. This will help INS address all  
10 concerns about the proposed action. Comments  
11 will be addressed in the draft PEIS.

12 My purpose is to ensure that we have a  
13 fair, orderly meeting and that all who wish to be  
14 heard will have a chance to speak.

15 You can comment at this meeting in one  
16 of three ways: On comment sheets for those who  
17 would like to hand-write your comments; orally  
18 during the public comment period; or directly to  
19 our court reporter, Ms. Lety Perez, following the  
20 general comments session.

21 Those of you wanting to make oral  
22 comments need to fill out a registration form.  
23 One of these should have been provided to you  
24 upon sign-in. If you have not filled one out but  
25 wish to, they will be available after the

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01 presentation.

02 The closing of tonight's comment period  
03 will end this meeting, but we will be available  
04 for one-on-one discussions after the formal  
05 comment forum to answer any additional questions  
06 or to provide more information. However, let me  
07 reinforce that these informal discussions are not  
08 recorded and will not be included in the PEIS.

09 In addition to tonight's speakers, you  
10 can speak informally with Linda Ash, who is our  
11 project manager from the Four District Army Corps  
12 of Engineers; Ms. Deborah Hood, who is the  
13 environmental officer for INS; Mr. Ralph Abel,  
14 who is with the Dallas region of INS; Gary Witt,  
15 who is the deputy assistant regional director for  
16 the Border Patrol; or Milton Blankenship, the  
17 environmental officer for Joint Task Force Six;  
18 or Eric Verwers, environmental engineer for Four  
19 District Army Corps of Engineers.

20 Before I introduce the speakers for  
21 tonight, I'd like to welcome the media  
22 representatives: Tom Scott from Channel 7 news,  
23 Mike Glen from the El Paso Times, Eddie Romero  
24 and Paul Johnson from the Channel 9 news, Jodi  
25 Bizar from Reuters -- I hope I said that right.

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01 MR. BIZAR: Reuters.

02 MR. BARRETT: Reuters. Thank you. And  
03 Kristine Lee, from KDBC Channel 4 news. I want  
04 to welcome you-all here.

05 Here is this evening's schedule: Our  
06 first speaker will be Mr. Ernesto Martinez, the  
07 assistant patrol agent in charge for the El Paso  
08 sector, who will provide a short overview of  
09 what's going on in the sector and what the

10 sector's current needs are.

11 Mr. John Esquivel from headquarters,  
12 Border Patrol, will give a brief history and  
13 provide a national perspective of the Border  
14 Patrol.

15 Lieutenant Colonel Steve Tennant from  
16 Joint Task Force Six will discuss the role of the  
17 military in constructing these types of projects.

18 And finally Mr. Chris Irwin will  
19 discuss the National Environmental Policy Act  
20 process and give a timeline for this PEIS.

21 After the presentations, we will open  
22 the meeting to your comments and concerns. I ask  
23 you each to please limit your comments to five  
24 minutes.

25 At this time, I would like to introduce  
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01 our first speaker, Mr. Ernesto Martinez.

02 MR. MARTINEZ: Good evening, ladies and  
03 gentlemen. Welcome to the scoping meeting. My  
04 name's Ernesto Martinez. I'm an assistant chief  
05 for the El Paso Border Patrol sector.

06 In 1994, Operation Hold the Line was  
07 started here in El Paso. During that time, we  
08 found that, through deterrence, we were able to  
09 gain quite a bit of control over the illegal  
10 entry of aliens into the country.

11 A lot of you also know that it seems  
12 like crime went down in the city almost  
13 immediately, the day after the commencement of  
14 Operation Hold the Line.

15 Although it's been a very successful  
16 strategy, we found that we need to do more. We  
17 don't have the resources that we did when we  
18 started the operation, but we find that we need  
19 assistance by -- through technology.

20 Fencing. One of the problems we're  
21 having right now is around downtown, the  
22 Chihuahueta area. The canal has been put  
23 underground and it's open to illegal entry, and  
24 we don't have the manpower to place agents  
25 there. One of the things we want to do is

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01 establish a fence there, and lighting.

02 Several years ago, when the fence was  
03 built along the cement channel of the river, a  
04 lot of people said it would be gone in a few  
05 months. They called it a "tortilla curtain."  
06 Well, it still stands. We think fencing is a  
07 very necessary and -- very necessary for our  
08 operations.

09 We erected a fence around Roadside Park  
10 because we were having a lot of problems in that  
11 area. A lot of U.S. citizens were being stopped  
12 there and robbed. Since we've put up the  
13 chain-link fence, that has diminished quite a  
14 bit. The people don't have the opportunity to

15 run back and forth across the border as they used  
16 to. We also erected a fence in the Anapra area,  
17 which we have found has channeled some of the  
18 illegal traffic further west, which helps us  
19 better contain or deter illegal alien traffic.

20 Our plans for the future are to  
21 establish a camera system that would run from  
22 probably the Roadside Park area all the way to  
23 the Ysleta station, and east of the Ysleta  
24 station. That's another technology that we think  
25 would really help us tremendously. We did have a  
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01 camera system in the downtown area, but that is  
02 fast deteriorating.

03 Of course, our goals are to reduce the  
04 illegal crossing in urban areas, to increase the  
05 number of lights in urban areas, and construct  
06 lights within urban areas. We want to reduce  
07 drug traffic along the border crossing. As an  
08 agency that patrols the border, we get involved a  
09 lot in narcotic seizures. Some of our busiest  
10 areas, of course, are Fort Hancock and Fabens, as  
11 far as narcotics being brought across the river.

12 And what we think we'd do if we had  
13 some technology with sensors, that we can curb  
14 and continue to curb illegal drug traffic.

15 We have an in-force system whereby we  
16 can fingerprint and take a picture of each  
17 illegal alien that we apprehend, and what we've  
18 done is establish a program with the prosecutors  
19 here where anybody that's apprehended at least  
20 seven times will be set up for deportation, and  
21 later on probation. That has helped us  
22 tremendously in stemming the illegal entries.

23 In technology, fencing and lighting is  
24 what we're looking for, and, of course,  
25 manpower. The sector has increased quite a bit  
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01 in manpower in the last three years. In 1994, I  
02 believe we had 700 agents in the sector. We have  
03 a little over -- well, we have 1,000 agents right  
04 now.

05 We have 12 stations that operate within  
06 this sector. Four of them are in the El Paso,  
07 Texas -- 12 stations are in -- excuse me. Eight  
08 stations are in New Mexico. And through  
09 checkpoints and other activities, is what we try  
10 to do to curb illegal entry and deter illegal  
11 entry of aliens.

12 That concludes my briefing. Thank you  
13 very much.

14 MR. BARRETT: I thank Mr. Martinez.  
15 Our next speaker will be John Esquivel from  
16 headquarters Border Patrol.

17 MR. ESQUIVEL: Good evening. My name  
18 is John Esquivel. I'm an assistant chief with  
19 the United States Border Patrol headquarters in

20 Washington, DC. I'm here today to give you a  
21 brief history of the United States Border Patrol,  
22 provide an overview of our mission, our strategy,  
23 and the operational impact.

24 The Border Patrol was first organized  
25 by then Commissioner General of Immigration in  
0010 1904, who were known as "Border Guards." It was  
01 established in 1924 by the Bureau of Immigration  
02 as the United States Border Patrol, and was  
03 originally part of the Department of Labor.

04 The Immigration & Naturalization  
05 Service has been part of the Department of  
06 Justice since 1940, and we are the armed  
07 enforcement branch of the Immigration Service.

08 The Border Patrol has 21 sectors  
09 throughout the United States and Puerto Rico,  
10 including the Border Patrol headquarters in  
11 Washington, DC. Training sites in Glynco,  
12 Georgia, one in Artesia, and one in Charleston.

13 The mission of the U.S. Border Patrol  
14 is to secure the external boundaries of the  
15 United States by: Preventing or deterring  
16 illegal entry; detecting, interdicting,  
17 apprehending undocumented entrants, smugglers,  
18 narcotics, contraband, and violators of other  
19 laws. We are designated the lead agency  
20 responsible for drug interdiction between the  
21 ports of entry.

22 Our operations include linewatch and  
23 sign cutting, traffic checkpoints, transportation  
24 check, air operations, marine patrol, horse and  
0011 bike patrol, and our canine program.

01 The Border Patrol's national strategy  
02 calls for "Prevention Through Deterrence." It is  
03 a multi-year approach in which we want to "Gain,  
04 Maintain and Extend Control" of the border.

05 We have four operations currently in  
06 effect. The first one, which commenced here in  
07 El Paso, is Operation Hold the Line. Since then  
08 we've had Operation Gatekeeper, which encompasses  
09 the San Diego, El Centro, Yuma. Operation  
10 Safeguard in Yuma. And Operation Rio Grande,  
11 which encompasses the Marfa, Del Rio, Laredo and  
12 McAllen sectors.

13 From October 1997 to May of 1998, the  
14 southwest border sectors have apprehended  
15 1,042,227 illegal aliens, of which El Paso sector  
16 is responsible for 85,261.

17 As of July of this year, there are  
18 approximately 944 agents assigned to the El Paso  
19 sector, and we hope to receive more.

20 As I mentioned earlier, the Border  
21 Patrol is designated the primary agency for drug  
22 enforcement between the ports of entry. And in  
23 fiscal year 1997, we accounted for 52 percent of  
24

25 all marijuana seizures by all federal law  
0012 enforcement agencies combined.  
02 From October 1997 to July of 1998, the  
03 El Paso sector was responsible for approximately  
04 900 narcotics seizures, of which 108,212 pounds  
05 of marijuana, 2,263 pounds of cocaine. Combined,  
06 that's a street value of \$161,318,752.  
07 Nationally, the Border Patrol has  
08 seized approximately 14,994 pounds of cocaine  
09 from October '97 to July of 1998. And for the  
10 same time period it has seized approximately  
11 705,715 pounds of marijuana.  
12 I just want to mention a few of the  
13 significant seizures that we've had in the last  
14 couple of months.  
15 On July 13th, agents working in  
16 Brownsville, Texas, seized 2,501 pounds of  
17 marijuana, with a street value of \$2,000,800. On  
18 July 22nd of this year, agents in Laredo seized  
19 2,534 pounds, with a street value of 2,027,200.  
20 And on July 17th, an agent in Rio Grande City  
21 seized 1,674, with a street value of \$1,339,000.  
22 Last month, agents working along with  
23 United States Customs Service, conducted a joint  
24 operation which led to a seizure of 1,705 pounds  
25 of marijuana and 35 pounds of methamphetamine,  
0013 with a street value of \$1,364,000 and \$1,120,000,  
02 respectively.  
03 On August 8th, agents in Laredo seized  
04 500 pounds of cocaine, with a street value of  
05 \$16,016,000. And again on August 20th, agents in  
06 the United States Customs Service seized 1,214  
07 pounds of marijuana in Tucson, with a street  
08 value of \$971,880.  
09 Although these are significant  
10 seizures, they are by no means a rarity. It  
11 occurs every day along the southwest border.  
12 We can attribute our accomplishments  
13 and our success to our national strategy, which  
14 we've had in effect since Operation Hold the  
15 Line.  
16 Additionally, we can attribute a lot of  
17 our success and our ability to perform our  
18 mission because of the help that we receive from  
19 JTF-6 with respect to engineering support. This  
20 support has saved the Immigration &  
21 Naturalization Service, and most importantly the  
22 American taxpayers, millions of dollars, and we  
23 look forward to our continued relationship with  
24 Joint Task Force Six. Thank you.  
25 Please welcome Lieutenant Colonel Steve  
0014 Tennant.  
02 MR. TENNANT: Good evening, ladies and  
03 gentlemen. My name is Lieutenant Colonel Steve

04 Tennant, and I'm the staff engineer for Joint  
05 Task Force Six. I'm here tonight to provide you  
06 information regarding what we do, how we do it,  
07 and the purpose for what we do. By the end of  
08 this presentation I hope you will have a greater  
09 understanding of our organization, our purpose,  
10 and how we support the various federal, state and  
11 local law enforcement agencies in their efforts  
12 to stop the flow of drugs into our communities.

13 This is the sequence that we use to  
14 explain JTF-6 and how we operate. We will start  
15 with the national drug control strategy and goals  
16 put forth by the President, explain the  
17 involvement of the Department of Defense and  
18 JTF-6, what the mission of our organization is,  
19 and the types of support we provide to law  
20 enforcement agents.

21 The statistics you see here give you a  
22 broad view of the national drug problem. Illegal  
23 drug use is responsible for a significant amount  
24 of criminal activity and poses a serious public  
25 safety and public health problem for governments

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01 at all levels. An estimated \$83 billion per year  
02 is spent by governmental agencies to address  
03 drug-related problems, with \$67 billion going to  
04 social programs, such as treatment and  
05 education. An estimated \$16 billion is spent on  
06 law enforcement efforts every year.

07 Drugs impact the productivity of our  
08 workforce, disrupt the educational system in our  
09 country, have a significant impact on law and  
10 order in our communities, affect our families and  
11 place a burden on our health care system. To  
12 address these issues, the Office of Drug Control  
13 Policy, working at the direction of the  
14 President, formulated and published a national  
15 drug control strategy which defines our national  
16 plan to combat and treat drug use. It also  
17 assigns goals and objectives by which we can  
18 measure the success of our efforts.

19 These are the goals laid out in the  
20 strategy published in February 1998. The  
21 Department of Defense and the Joint Task Force  
22 Six contribute to the attainment of these goals  
23 by providing support to law enforcement efforts  
24 to reduce drug related-crime and violence, shield  
25 America's land and sea and air frontiers, and to

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01 assist in breaking foreign and domestic sources  
02 of supply.

03 We've highlighted those three areas for  
04 you in yellow -- I hope you can see that in the  
05 audience. The national objective is to reduce  
06 drug use and availability 50 percent by the year  
07 2007.

08 JTF-6 is a Department of Defense Task

09 Force established in 1989 to provide support to  
10 law enforcement agencies on the southwest  
11 border. Since 1989, our responsibilities have  
12 grown to include the entire Continental United  
13 States. The main focus of our support remains in  
14 the four southwest border states, where over 80  
15 percent of our missions occur. Our most recent  
16 mission statement approved earlier this year is,  
17 "Joint Task Force Six synchronizes and integrates  
18 Department of Defense operational, technological,  
19 training, and intelligence support to drug law  
20 enforcement agencies counter-drug efforts in the  
21 continental United States to reduce the  
22 availability of illegal drugs. . .

23 This slide shows you specific  
24 legislation by the Congress which establishes  
25 JTF-6 and provides the legal constraints under  
0017 which we operate. To summarize the various laws  
02 you see here, they authorized DoD to conduct  
03 training exercises in drug interdiction areas,  
04 they authorize DoD provide support in  
05 counter-drug efforts, and they authorize DoD to  
06 assist with the detection and monitoring of  
07 cross-border smuggling activities.

08 These are the restrictions we operate  
09 under. All support must be at the written  
10 request of law enforcement, and must have a  
11 specific counter-drug nexus or linkage clearly  
12 articulated.

13 All JTF-6 activities must comply with  
14 the Posse Comitatus Act, as amended, which  
15 prohibits the use of U.S. military forces for  
16 domestic police function. We may not violate the  
17 sanctity of the U.S.-Mexico border.

18 We must follow the rules of engagement  
19 which only allow for the use of force in  
20 self-defense. Currently, no JTF-6 operations are  
21 authorized to carry weapons, and all security for  
22 operations is provided by the supported law  
23 enforcement agency.

24 We are prohibited from collecting and  
25 maintaining information on U.S. persons, and  
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01 undergo independent intelligence oversight  
02 inspections to ensure compliance with this  
03 restriction. We may conduct no operations on  
04 private land without the express written  
05 permission of the landowner. Our funds can only  
06 be expended on counter-drug support through law  
07 enforcement.

08 As you're probably aware, ground  
09 missions, which I will describe later, are  
10 currently under suspension by order of the  
11 Secretary of Defense. We still provide a wide  
12 range of operational, engineer and general  
13 support to law enforcement.



14               This slide sums up our El Paso  
15 involvement in the counter-drug effort. We  
16 provide support, but are not police. We do not  
17 search people or property. We do not seize  
18 contraband, and we do not make arrests.

19               Here you see our support request  
20 process. All requests are processed through  
21 Operational Alliance, an agency made up of  
22 federal, state, and local law enforcement  
23 representatives who validate counter-drug nexus  
24 and provide us with our working priorities.

25               JTF-6 conducts an independent legal  
0019 review, and once the mission is approved by our  
01 command group we solicit for volunteer units to  
02 participate. These units sign up for the  
03 training benefits that they receive, which  
04 closely match specific skills required for their  
05 wartime mission. The mission is planned, briefed  
06 for approval to JTF-6 and the law enforcement  
07 agency, and formal orders are issued to begin the  
08 support mission. After each operation, an  
09 after-action review is conducted by the unit with  
10 the law enforcement agency and JTF-6 to capture  
11 any lessons learned.

12               These are the operational missions we  
13 are authorized to perform. Ground observation  
14 and reconnaissance is using military forces to  
15 watch smuggling routes or patrol remote areas to  
16 locate marijuana plots or narcotic labs. Most of  
17 these missions are under the suspension I spoke  
18 of earlier, and we conduct none of these  
19 operations at this time.

20               Aerial observation is the use of  
21 Department of Defense aircraft to spot  
22 drug-growing areas or labs and monitor smuggling  
23 corridors. Any information or activity is  
24 immediately passed on to law enforcement for  
25

0020 action. We do not follow up on the initial  
01 sightings. Sensor missions involve monitoring  
02 smuggling corridors to detect and report activity  
03 to law enforcement. Ground sensor operations are  
04 covered by the suspension.

05               We also provide medical evacuation  
06 support and transportation of supplies and  
07 equipment. Controlled delivery is best explained  
08 by example. Law enforcement agencies often  
09 intercept a smuggling load and want to identify  
10 and arrest criminals at the destination. They  
11 will request our support to move the drugs and  
12 vehicle from the point of arrest to the  
13 destination. This is strictly a special purpose  
14 transportation function.

15               Our engineers provide a wide range of  
16 assessment services, to include project design,  
17 surveys, cost estimating, environmental  
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19 assessments, and assistance with master planning  
20 of infrastructure. Our primary construction  
21 missions are border roads, fences, and lights  
22 between the United States ports of entries along  
23 the southwest border. We also provide training  
24 and operational facilities such as small arms  
25 ranges, vehicle maintenance facilities, aviation

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01 support facilities, Border Patrol checkpoints,  
02 and other structures throughout the United  
03 States.

04 Our general support missions categories  
05 are shown here. Mobile training teams are small  
06 groups of subject matter experts requested by law  
07 enforcement to provide classroom and practical  
08 instruction. We typically provide 150 training  
09 teams per year in medical, firearms,  
10 intelligence, language and planning techniques.

11 We coordinate but do not directly  
12 provide specialized counter-drug training through  
13 the U.S. Army military police school. Topics  
14 include fuel, police operations, special reaction  
15 team techniques. We are also involved in a  
16 technology-sharing process with our law  
17 enforcement agencies, with such things as modern  
18 sensors, night vision equipment and other  
19 technologies such as tunnel detection.

20 This final slide is our vision  
21 statement. It sums up what we're all about. We  
22 feel we're a dedicated organization drawing from  
23 all four services, committed to the service of  
24 our nation, and we support our law enforcement  
25 agencies in the counter-drug effort.

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01 This concludes my formal briefing.  
02 I'll be followed by Mr. Chris Irwin, who will  
03 discuss the process we will follow under the  
04 National Environmental Policy Act. Ladies and  
05 gentlemen, thank you for your kind attention.

06 MR. IRWIN: Thank you, Colonel  
07 Tennant. My name again is Chris Irwin. I'm with  
08 Bell South Resource Corporation, one of the  
09 subcontractors in the preparation of this  
10 document.

11 As Colonel Tennant and Ralph had  
12 mentioned to you, I'm going to be telling you  
13 about the National Environmental Policy Act, or  
14 NEPA, as it's nationally -- as it's commonly  
15 called. NEPA was passed by the U.S. Congress in  
16 1969. And it requires that any federal agency,  
17 whenever they decide to undertake a project, or  
18 if they decide to commit resources, significant  
19 resources, to a project, that they have to  
20 prepare a NEPA document.

21 Now, a NEPA document is -- the purpose  
22 of it is to provide full disclosure to the public  
23 of the proposed action, as well as any

24 anticipated impacts from that action. It  
25 provides the public with an opportunity to

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01 participate in decisionmaking, and it provides  
02 objective, sound data and impact analysis to the  
03 decision makers so that they can make an informed  
04 decision.

05         There's three levels -- generally  
06 there's three levels of environmental  
07 consideration under NEPA. First is the  
08 categorical exclusion, or CATEX. These are very  
09 minor projects that just have very minor  
10 documents addressing the impacts on them. Second  
11 one is an environmental assessment, and the third  
12 one Environmental Impact Statement or EIS.

13         Under an EIS, NEPA and the President's  
14 Council on Environmental Quality requires that  
15 scoping process, such as what we're doing  
16 tonight, be conducted. I'd like to go into with  
17 you a little bit about the NEPA process.

18         I'll mention first that a federal  
19 agency may identify a need or problem, and they  
20 will also formulate or identify possible actions  
21 or alternatives that will satisfy that need or  
22 resolve that problem. If, as in this case, it is  
23 an EIS that is going to be prepared, the notice  
24 of intent is in the Federal Register. The notice  
25 of intent for this EIS was published on August

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01 28th, which initiated the public scoping process.

02         This is the second in a series of ten  
03 public scoping meetings that we are holding along  
04 the border. We will get your comments tonight,  
05 as well as -- up until a certain point, which I  
06 will go over in a little bit. There's a deadline  
07 for receiving comments. All your comments will  
08 be incorporated into a draft document. That  
09 draft document will be released to the public for  
10 review and comment for a minimum of 45 days.

11         After that, we'll get additional  
12 comments from the public and we will incorporate  
13 all those comments, address those comments and  
14 issue a final EIS. That final EIS will be  
15 released for public review and comment for a  
16 minimum of 30 days. After that, the decision  
17 will be published in the publication.

18         INS and JTF-6 are currently complying  
19 with NEPA in several different ways: First of  
20 all, in 1994, they published the Programmatic  
21 Impact Statement which covered the same study  
22 area that we'll be addressing on this current  
23 document. That document allowed other  
24 site-specific and project-specific EIS to be  
25 tiered to that document for the past five years.

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01         They've also prepared or conducted  
02 cultural and biological surveys for -- where most

03 of their projects, especially all of the  
04 engineering projects, and for many of the larger  
05 engineering projects, where sensitive resources  
06 were identified. They've conducted on-site  
07 monitoring during the construction phase and  
08 insured that any impact of essential resources  
09 were not impacted.

10 All of these documents, as well as the  
11 one we'll be preparing, have to comply with the  
12 numerous federal and state statutes and  
13 regulations, not the least of which are NEPA and  
14 Endangered Species Act, National Historic  
15 Preservation Act, some executive orders such as  
16 the recently promulgated Environmental Justice  
17 Executive Order, and just numerous state  
18 statutes, regulations and applicable permits.

19 As I mentioned, in 1994, we prepared a  
20 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.  
21 That PEIS addressed projects anticipated over the  
22 next five years. That five-year period ends in  
23 late '99, so INS and JTF-6 are being proactive  
24 and starting early. And we're going to look at  
25 doing a supplemental or updated PEIS so that we  
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01 can get a better decision on the rest of our  
02 activities for the next five years.

03 The supplemental programmatic PEIS will  
04 be formatted very similar to the 1994 PEIS in  
05 that the existing conditions or baseline  
06 conditions will be presented in five separate  
07 volumes. All these volumes will be with regard  
08 or available for public review at local  
09 libraries.

10 The information contained in these will  
11 also be summarized and incorporated by reference  
12 to the Programmatic EIS. Some of the goals that  
13 we hope the Programmatic EIS will satisfy will  
14 be: One, first of all, to identify the types of  
15 projects that INS and JTF-6 will undertake for  
16 the next five years. Secondly, it will describe  
17 in generic or general type impacts what each type  
18 of INS and JTF-6 action will result in.

19 It will compare and discuss the  
20 cumulative impacts from both past projects, as  
21 well as the next five years' projects. And, as I  
22 mentioned, it will provide accurate objective  
23 data to the decision makers.

24 Some of the benefits, as required by  
25 NEPA: Provides public disclosure of all the

0027  
01 anticipated projects and their impacts,  
02 eliminates repetitive discussions, saves cost,  
03 time to INS, JTF-6, and of course to the public.  
04 It provides an accurate assessment of all the  
05 impacts of the INS/JTF-6 program, which is fairly  
06 unique. There's very few federal agencies that  
07 have a program-type document that looks at all

08 their impacts across the region. And, of course,  
09 it will maintain coordination with some of the  
10 natural and cultural resource agencies, both  
11 federal and state, and provide them with very  
12 valuable information about some very sensitive  
13 resources they would not have otherwise.

14 The thing I want to emphasize is the  
15 supplemental programmatic PEIS will not allow  
16 JTF-6/INS or any other agency to conduct a  
17 project without the proper NEPA document or  
18 compliance with the Endangered Species Act or the  
19 National Historic Preservation Act, or any other  
20 environmental or state regulation. Still have to  
21 go through all of the actions to comply with  
22 these regulations.

23 The schedule for the PEIS as we see it  
24 now, as I mentioned, the notice of intent was  
25 published in the Federal Register August 28th.

0028 That initiated the scoping process. We're having  
01 our scoping meetings, started last night, and,  
02 again, this is the second of a series of ten.  
03 And we'll receive comments up till December  
04 16th.

05 We hope to have a drafted PEIS ready  
06 for public review in February of '99 for a  
07 minimum of 45 days. The final PEIS, we are  
08 shooting to have that ready for public view no  
09 later than September '99 with a record of  
10 decision in November '99.

11 That concludes my presentation. We'll  
12 turn it back over to Ralph Barrett, who will tell  
13 you a little bit about the ground rules on our  
14 public comments.

15 MR. BARRETT: Thank you, Chris. Has  
16 everyone who wishes to speak turned in a card?  
17 If not, if you'll raise your hand, we've got some  
18 staff here in the back that can bring you a card,  
19 let you fill that out. And basically I want to  
20 ensure that everyone has a fair chance to be  
21 heard.

22 Again, we have Lety here, our court  
23 reporter, who will record word for word  
24 everything that's said. The verbatim record will

0029 become part of the draft PEIS, and this will  
01 allow our document preparers to review inputs  
02 exactly as they were stated, so they can make  
03 sure your comments are accurately and completely  
04 addressed.

05 Now, with that in mind, I want you to  
06 help me enforce the ground rules of tonight's  
07 meeting. First, please speak only after I  
08 recognize you and please address your remarks to  
09 me. If you have a written statement, you may  
10 leave it with me or you may read it out loud or  
11 both, as long as time limitations are observed.

13               Second, please speak clearly and  
14 slowly. Start with your name, address and the  
15 capacity in which you appear. For example,  
16 public official, designated representative of a  
17 group, or an interested citizen. And again, this  
18 will help our court reporter prepare the  
19 transcript.

20               Third, please observe the time limits.  
21 Everyone will have five minutes to speak. When  
22 you have reached your allotted time I'll raise my  
23 hand and I'll ask you to please finish up quickly  
24 so we may hear from the next speaker.

25               Fourth, please honor any requests I  
0030

01 make of you to stop speaking after you're  
02 allotted time has elapsed. If you have more  
03 comments than you can present in five minutes,  
04 please take some time now to prioritize them now  
05 so the most important comments are spoken first.

06               If you later decide you have more  
07 comments following this meeting or have  
08 additional considerations you wish to have  
09 addressed, please provide them in writing to us,  
10 either at tonight's hearing or by mail. And  
11 there's an address at the bottom right corner of  
12 the sheet that they've given to you that gives  
13 you that address to mail your comments.

14               Fifth, of course, please do not speak  
15 while another person is speaking. We'll  
16 recognize one person at a time.

17               Okay. With that, do I have any  
18 speakers? Okay. No speakers have signed up.

19               Okay. Thank you very much. If anyone  
20 -- this -- even if you haven't signed up, does  
21 anyone wish to make a comment? Yes, sir. If you  
22 can --

23               MR. DUNN: Can we get copies of the  
24 Power Point presentations? Do you have any hard  
25 copies of, you know, the draft, mission

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01 statement, all that?

02               MR. BARRETT: That's not really a  
03 comment, but we'll address the question.

04               MR. DUNN: Request for information.

05               MR. BARRETT: Firstly, I have no  
06 objection. There's nothing on there that's  
07 secret, anything like that, so certainly. We  
08 don't have hard copies with us, I don't believe.  
09 If we can get your name and address, where we can  
10 send you a copy of it, if that's all right.

11               Okay. Let me take this opportunity,  
12 since we don't have any scheduled speakers, to  
13 close the formal meeting. Again, as I mentioned  
14 before, the team will be here for informal  
15 discussions, and these discussions will not be  
16 part of public record. Please keep that in mind.  
17 But I'd like to thank you for your time in

18 attending tonight. Good night.  
19 (Proceedings concluded at 7:40 p.m.)  
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01 CERTIFICATE  
02

03 I, Leticia D. Perez, Certified Shorthand  
04 Reporter of the State of Texas, do hereby certify  
05 that the above and foregoing contains a true and  
06 correct transcription of the Public Scoping  
07 Meeting.  
08

09 Certified to on October 7, 1998.  
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12

13 \_\_\_\_\_  
13 Leticia D. Perez  
13 Certified Shorthand Reporter  
14 Texas CSR No. 5023  
14 Expires December 31, 1999  
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